



## **Dependable, LLC**

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# **Technical Bulletin DEP-1-03**

## **Repair of Deficient Lightweight Concrete/Gypsum Underlayments**

Cellular, vermiculite, perlite, gypsum and other light weight insulating concretes may have low compressive strengths and soft, powdery, porous surfaces. These types of floors typically will not permit a cement based patch or underlayment system.

In addressing a deteriorated gypsum or lightweight concrete floor there are several areas of concern, many of which deal with the question, "Why is the material deteriorating?" The floor must be sound, solid, and well supported. Often the problems experienced can be caused by one of these factors. Before trying to make a repair, it is necessary to ensure that the causes have been corrected.

If the floor has a weak surface and traffic or floor covering removal has left the surface rough, then a solution is indeed possible. A common problem is a dusty surface. In this case the surface should be vacuumed, and then PRIMER SL™ or WHITE LATEX LIQUID® may be applied. Very often the porosity of the surface will require multiple coats to provide a membrane of primer at the surface. The primer / sealer penetrates the surface to help lock it up by filling the pores of the substrate. Floor covering may be applied at this time or the appropriate leveling material. Most floor coverings may be applied directly over the WHITE LATEX LIQUID®, including ceramic, carpet, and vinyl. PRIMER SL™ is used prior to installing a Dependable self leveler.

Deflection and under design of the floor can be very serious problems. Although SKIMFLOW® HPI has excellent flexural strength along with flexibility, the floor must be properly supported. Provide these supports prior to attempting repair installation. It is always advisable to have a structural engineer inspect suspect floors.

The following procedures should be followed for an effective repair. For details on application, please see specific product data sheets.

### **Preparation**

- Ensure underlayment is well bonded
- Remove un-bonded areas
- Thoroughly clean large dormant cracks
- Vacuum entire surface



### **Repair Products**

- Deep fill areas (1 – 3”) – SKIMFLOW<sup>®</sup> HPI or SKIMFLOW<sup>®</sup> HPI w/ aggregate
- Patching the surface – WHITE SKIMCOAT<sup>™</sup>
- Thin Resurfacing – SKIMFLOW<sup>®</sup> HPI

In preparation of patching a gypsum floor we recommend:

1. Remove any weak or cracked material. Make sure that bond is being made to a sound substrate.
2. Vacuum the substrate to remove any dust. Sometimes a light damp mopping can help remove dust.
3. Prime with WHITE LATEX LIQUID<sup>®</sup>. Multiple coats may be needed depending upon the porosity of the substrate.
4. Our preference is to use like materials, so we would recommend patching with WHITE SKIMCOAT<sup>™</sup> mixed with WHITE LATEX LIQUID<sup>®</sup>. If however, it is preferred to use a portland cement based patch, use the SKIMCRETE<sup>®</sup> XL. Mix the White Latex Liquid 3 parts water to one part WLL and mix with SKIMCRETE<sup>®</sup> XL. This helps secure a good bond to the primed substrate.

If you have any questions or comments with respect to this technical bulletin, please contact technical service at Dependable, LLC at 1-800-227-3434.